(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) The French industrialists whom Prime Minister had met last month in Paris, have shown interest in investing in India. The French consultancy company SOFRETEC is trying to identify concrete collaboration projects in the field of solar energy.

Nuclear free South Asia Zone

2547. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 149 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1991 and state India's stand on the outcome of talks held with U.S. Under Secretary of State on the issue of Pakistan proposal for making nuclear free South Asia Zone in Delhi recently and with other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) the talks held with US Under Secretary of State Mr. Reginald Barthoomew during his recent visit to India covered a wide range of international and regional security issues.

We have reservations about Pakistan's proposal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in South Asia.

पाकिस्तान का भारत के विरुद्ध गलत सूचना देने का अभियान

2548. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :
श्री राम सिंह राठवा :
श्री सुरेश पचौरी :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान भारत के विरुद्ध, विशेषकर जम्मू और कश्मीर के संबंध में, गलत सूचना फैलाने के लिए विभिन्न अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों का इस्तेमाल कर रहा है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पाकिस्तान ने हाल ही में अपने गलत सूचना अभियान के एक अंग के रूप में इस्लामिक सम्मेलन के संगठन का उपयोग किया हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो पाकिस्तान के गलत सूचना अभियान का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) जी हां ।

(ग) सरकार ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को इस बात से अवगत कराया है कि पाकिस्तान जम्मू और कश्मीर में आतंकवाद और तोड़फोड़ की गतिविधियों को समर्थन दे रहा है और वह राज्य की स्थिति को गलत रूप से प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयास कर रहा है तथा शिमला समझौते का उल्लंघन करके इस मसले को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रूप देने का प्रयास कर रहा है । सरकार ने बार-बार यह भी दोहराया है कि इस्लामी देशों के संगठन को इस मामले में हस्तक्षेप का कोई अधिकार नहीं है । शिमला समझौते को व्यापक समर्थन मिल रहा है । और भारत के विरुद्ध चलाए जा रहे आतंकवाद में पाकिस्तान का हाथ होने पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चिन्ता में वृद्धि हो रही है ।

India's stand on economic assistance from developed nations

2549. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have emphasised the policy of precedence for the developmental needs of the poor over issues such as human rights, rule of law and democracy in the international fora;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have urged upon the developed nations not to link the problems of human rights, rule of law and democracy with economic assistance;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government support the view that the countries violating human rights should get financial assistance from the developed nations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Government has laid stress on the importance of promoting development and eradicating poverty and ensuring that development remains the primary focus of international cooperation. At the same time, it remains firmly committed to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These commitments are not and need not be mutually exclusive.

(c) to (e) While Government has repeatedly emphasised its support for human rights, democracy and rule of law, it has conveyed in international fora and in its bilateral contacts that it is inappropriate to utilize these as non-economic conditionalities for development assistance.

2550. [*Transferred to the 18th December, 1991*]

U.N. convention on rights of the child

2551. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay in ratifying the U.N. convention on the rights of the child;

(b) the steps taken so far to expedite ratification ; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) The ratification process involves extensive consultations with different Ministries of the Government. These are expected to be completed shortly.

Relief to cyclone hit Bangladesh

2552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent havoc caused in Bangladesh by the cyclone and urgent need for relief on a Government and non-Government basis and if so, Government's response thereto ; and

(b) whether Government propose to utilise the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Government have extended relief assistance worth Rs. 11.5 crores in kind for the victims of the severe cyclone that struck Bangladesh on 29-30 April, 1991.

(b) Government are willing to consider utilising the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent for relief assistance, on a case by case basis.

Fate of Indian community in South Africa

2553. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the million strong Indian Community in South Africa is concerned about their future as the country prepares for transition to a port apartheid era according to a news published in Hindustan Times on 24th November, 1991;

(b) what is the total number of Indians in South Africa;

(c) whether it is also fact that ever since their presence in South Africa, the local Indian people are being discriminated and are denied the right to vote, and treated as third and fourth class citizens in all the respects of life; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Some members of the Indian community in South Africa have expressed concern in this regard.

(b) At present there are approximately 1 million persons of Indian origin in South Africa.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In protest against the South African Government's apartheid policies, India was first country to break-off trade relations with South Africa in 1946. India was also the first country to inscribe the issue of apartheid on the agenda of the United Nations. We